



**Opposing Mandatory Social Security
House Joint Resolution 21**

Sponsor: Representative Roger Eddy / Representative Calvin Giles / Representative Jerry Mitchell / Representative Michael Smith / Representative Lou Lang

Summary: The resolution calls for Congress to not include mandatory Social Security participation by employees of state and local governments in any proposal for Social Security reform.

Points of Interest:

- The Social Security Trust Fund is expected to have insufficient funds to meet its obligations by 2042.
- One of the efforts made by Congress to address the financial crisis confronting the Social Security system, is considering a proposal mandating Social Security coverage for those employees covered by public pension plans.
- Within Illinois over 375,000 different state and local employees are covered by public pension plans that do not participate in the Social Security system.
- School, state, and local government employee pension plans provide solid, secure retirement benefits. Public pension plans can provide good benefits at a reasonable cost to public employees and employers, Social Security cannot.
- Preliminary estimates indicate a statewide cost of over \$2 billion, if participation in the federal Social Security system is mandated for Illinois state and local government employees. Resulting in a sharp decline of benefits, such as cost-of-living adjustments and health insurance.

Analysis: Illinois public pension plans have remained outside the Social Security system for decades and have developed plans that are tailored to the occupational needs of their participants. Mandating the participation into the Social Security system would not only jeopardize the integrity of the existing pension plans, but it may also affect the public safety and general welfare of Illinois citizens.